

# WITH THE WORLD'S BEST WRITERS

## THE NEW CONGRESSMAN.

Every member of congress, when first elected, is faced with the necessity of outlining his program for a public career, and must stand or fall upon the wisdom of his decision and his success in realizing his ambitions. He must decide whether he shall enter into competition with the men with records of long and honorable service behind them in seeking his share of the credit and plaudits for honors in the forum of debate and the contest for general legislation, or whether he shall devote his time to the interests of the particular constituency he may represent. If he represents a district in the house or a state in the senate in which the party majorities are strong and fixed, and his tenure of office assuredly long, he may with safety elect to devote his efforts to a specialty, to stamping his impress upon legislation on subjects to which he has devoted much thought and attention. In that event his first influence must be exerted to secure assignment to the committee that furnish the field for the exercise of his efforts, and after that everything depends upon the man and his willingness to work. Most of the legislation of congress, in fact, is the work of specialists.—From "Silent Forces in Congress," in Leslie's Monthly.

## ONE KIND OF MORAL COWARD.

Moral cowardice is too familiar a fact of human nature to require description as it is ordinarily exhibited. But there are some forms of it which are so subtle as actually to pass for virtues. There is the man who has the reputation of being aggressive and forceful to a degree, but who has no element of courtesy or consideration for his fellow men. He knows that if he allows other men to get close enough to him they will see that behind his bluster is a dearth of ideas and ability. He knows, too, that if he permits those who are associated with him and under his control to manifest their own individual worth the comparison which the world will institute between their genuine abilities and his pretended importance will be not only unflattering to him but destructive to his ambitions. The policy of such a man is to browbeat whenever he can and to systematically disparage others at every opportunity.—Baltimore Herald.

## UNLIBERATED POWERS.

From the latest measurements by Curie, it is estimated that the energy of fifteen pounds of radium, fully utilized, would run a one-horse-power engine many centuries. We are thus constantly being told of the latent powers stored away here and there which could be made to run the universe almost indefinitely if we could unlock them.

But it happens that we only manage to liberate these latent, stored-away powers gradually. Perhaps it is well, else some impetuous spirits might run away with the whole plan of creation and leave as high and dry.—Boston Globe.

## BOYS AND GIRLS.

In the May Dollmaker there is a paper by Lillic Hamilton French which contains much sensible advice to mothers of marriageable sons, and to mothers-in-law. The following paragraph on the antagonism that is fostered between boys and girls in childhood is worth quoting:

"Just like a boy," or "Just like a girl," one or the other is perpetually told, and always in the way of reproach. When the boy displays an undue feeling someone says to him: 'Your mother ought to put you in petticoats.' When the little girl tries to throw a ball she is told that the boys will laugh at her. The war of the sexes begins then and goes ceaselessly on. Why should these things be so? Boys and girls are in this world to grow up together, to live together, to take their places side by side, as parents and as guides to the generations coming after them. You, perhaps, are afraid to say so to your children, afraid of putting ideas into their heads. You find it easier to leave them to be taken unawares by newly awakened emotions, which plunge them into matrimony before they even know what its responsibilities entail, leaving them, as unhappy married people, to flounder away, as best they can, out of their own mistakes."

## NEWSPAPERS FOR WOMEN.

Mr. Harmsworth, the English newspaper man, says: "I had for many years a theory that a daily newspaper for women was in urgent request, and I started one. The belief cost me \$100,000. I found out that I was beaten. Women don't want a daily newspaper of their own." After leaving college, men and women prefer education. They are influenced by the same events, sympathize with the same movements and want the same news. Harmsworth's daily newspaper was killed by the nickname. His Daily Mail made his fortune, so the English wife named his new venture the "Daily Female."—Louisville Post.

## ABOUT "HIGH FINANCE."

Whatever tends to quiet the public's fears, or to sharpen the public's appetite for investment, is "good," from the point of view of the "high finance." To use another metaphor, the public's money is grieved to the financial mill.

Thus, the public has always a remedy in its own hands for grievances it may have against any financier or group of financiers. It has simply to refuse to buy the securities manufactured by the offenders. It has simply to tighten its purse strings, and the game ceases. The one motto that it should keep before itself is "Caveat emptor." Experience shows that very little is to be gained by throwing good money after bad, or unduly weeping over spilt milk. Nevertheless, experience is a good school, and money is not entirely lost if it pays for a lesson.—Wall Street Journal.

## NOT FOR THE PRESENT DAY.

Perhaps, under some halcyon dispensation—say, the millennium, of which we have heard so much—there may be an arrangement whereby universal health, happiness and prosperity will follow on the heels of universal education, apathy and indolence. But, taking humanity as it is, and measuring prospects by the actual material at our present disposal, it is wise to depopulate the fields, the factories and the mines by preaching the multitude into a state of scorn for simple toil? What are all these millions to do when they shall have exalted above the spade, the pitchfork and the ax? A world composed of millionaires, barbers, school teachers, orators and pawnbrokers would not be able to defend itself for any great length of time from the savage and the anarchist.—Washington Post.

## WHAT PEARY HOPES.

The approach of summer brings in to the public eye once more the indefatigable Commander Peary and his plans for reaching the North Pole. Already he is preparing for his trip from Sydney, which will begin July 1, and is for the purpose of carrying a reserve coal supply to the Greenland shore to be used in connection with his greatest and perhaps final dash northward in 1905. For this supreme effort of Peary's life only a part of the necessary \$200,000 has been secured, but the explorer is confident that by means of small subscriptions he will find ample means before next year.

Peary will enter upon the gigantic task of reaching the goal of so many ambitious admirably equipped by reason of his former attempts. Each failure has added much to his store of knowledge, has taught him where and how victory is possible. With a stronger vessel than ever before he hopes to reach a point in Greenland 83 degrees north before taking to the sledges. He will then be but 420 miles from the pole—a distance he has covered in four previous sledge journeys, each one, of course, begun from a more southern latitude. With a perfection of dog outfits and personnel of his little party he counts upon doing his outlined work between February and the end of May.

Some day or other, as surely as the earth revolves upon its axis, human hands are going to plant a flag upon the spot called the North Pole. Since this is to be done, however useless the labor and the pouring out of money may seem, let us hope that the Stars and Stripes may first float over the center of the frozen North.—Boston Post.

## PRESERVING THE DEAD.

In order to preserve the features of those who have died it is proposed by a Russian to embalm corpses by casting around them a solid mass of glass. This would be perfectly transparent, and as no air could get in the features would be preserved indefinitely. Of course, it is not possible to pour molten glass directly on the body, so it is first coated with a thin coating of so-called "liquid glass," or sodium silicate. This is allowed to harden and forms a protective coating. The body is then put in a mold and molten glass poured around it. When this is hardened we have a solid, transparent mass inclosing the body. The inventor of this process hopes that some day we will have a large museum filled with the perfectly preserved bodies of the great men of their times for future generations to gaze upon.—Collier's Weekly.

## PROSPERITY ON THE FARM.

The extent to which the prosperity of the country depends upon that of the farmer is shown impressively in the estimate of the value of surplus farm products made by the Department of Agriculture. A farm yield of \$4,500,000,000 above the value of the product fed to live stock is a pretty solid basis for industrial good times. In these figures it is to be found the reason why the financial stringency that affected the east last year did not upset the business of the country. The real and substantial prosperity of the farmer was not to be disturbed by the stock speculation of Wall street.—Kansas City Times.

## NUMBERS IN EARLY DAYS

Forerunners of Existing System Reported to Queer Expedients.

In a paper read before the Philological society of the University of Michigan, George Hempi commented upon the forerunners of our present system of numeration. Some two years ago, in seeking the origin of the Runic letters (the first letters used by the Germanic races), Professor Hempi discovered the primitive Germanic numeral notations. They throw new light upon the early Germanic numeral system, as well as upon the primitive Indo-European numerical system and upon the development of the Greek alphabet and the Greek numerical notation.

The primitive Indo-European numerical system was a mixture of the decimal and the sexagesimal. The first large number was the "shock"—that is, sixty—and the next large number was the "hund," or hundred, that is 120. Between 60 and 120 there were no numbers like our 70, etc., 70 being "a shock and ten," and 80 being "a shock and 20." The introduction of our present numbers between 60 and 120 arose out of the introduction of the decimal hundred or hundred, that is, 100, in distinction from which the hundred (120) was called the duodecimal hundred, or the "great hundred," which is still used in Iceland and parts of England.

## LEARNED A PARROT'S MIGHT.

Children Repeated Words With No Knowledge of Their Meaning.

Dr. Kerr, a Scotch minister, tells this story of his visit to a village school: "The lesson was one giving an account of a clever dog which had rescued a child from drowning. It was said that the dog was caressed by the parents of the child. I asked what was the meaning of caressed and the answer came at once, 'Made of fond led.' On referring to the list of words at the top of the lesson I found the explanation given was 'made of, fondled.' Wishing to find out if any child in the class had got a glimmering of the meaning I went from top to bottom and got from every child nothing but 'made of fond led,' pronounced as four words, to which they attached no meaning whatever. The teacher was surprised that I was not satisfied with the intelligence of the teaching."

## The Skylark.

Bird of the wilderness,  
Blissful and untroubled,  
Light be thy matin o'er moorland and lea!  
Emblem of happiness!  
Bless'd is thy dwelling place!  
O, to abide in the desert with thee!  
Wild is thy lay and loud,  
Far in the downy cloud;  
Love gives it energy, love gave it birth,  
Where on thy dewy wing,  
Where art thou journeying?  
Thy lay is in Heaven, thy love is on earth.  
O'er fell and fountain sheen,  
O'er moor and mountain green,  
O'er the red streamer that heralds the day,  
Over the cloudlet dim,  
Over the rainbow's rim,  
Musical cherub, hie, hie thee away!  
Then when the gloaming comes,  
Low in the heather blooms,  
Sweet will thy welcome and bed of love be!  
Emblem of happiness!  
Bless'd is thy dwelling place!  
O, to abide in the desert with thee!  
—Hogg.

## What Causes Fires.

The annual losses by fire in the United States which have averaged as high as \$100,000,000 a year at certain periods, were attributed during a single year to the following causes, the number of fires from each cause being given: Incendiarism, 1,927; defective flues, 1,269; sparks (not from locomotives), 715; matches, 636; explosions (of lamps, etc.), 430; stoves, 429; lightning, 369; spontaneous combustion, 226; prairie and forest fires, 280; lamp and lantern accidents (other than explosions), 238; locomotive sparks, 211; cigar stubs and pipes, 203; friction, 173; gas jets, 176; engines and boilers, 150; furnaces, 135; and from firecrackers, 105.

## Myrrh Simply a Gum Resin.

Myrrh is a gum resin that exudes from the cracks of a tree found in Arabian and East African countries. It flows rather freely, but the natives, in order to get a larger supply of the article, often bruise the trunk of the trees with rocks. The myrrh tree itself is a low tree, growing about ten or twelve feet high, with thorny branches. When the myrrh first exudes from the tree it is of a yellowish, whitish, buttery consistency that gradually hardens and assumes a reddish semitransparent color. It is used principally as one of the components of incense.

## Well Worth the Money.

A man in Randolph county, Missouri, was tried recently for assault with intent to kill and the prosecuting attorney brought into court as weapons a rail, an ax, a gun, a saw and a rifle. The defendant's counsel exhibited a scythe, a pitchfork, a pistol, a razor and a hoe. After deliberating two hours on the case the jury submitted a report which read as follows: "We the jury find that the fight took place, and we the jury would have paid a dollar each to have seen it."

## Youthful Statesman.

Edmund Waller had already made a reputation as a poet when, at the age of 16, he entered parliament and began to take an active part in public debates. His first speech was a great success. When the stripping of 16 first arose to address the house the members were inclined to laugh at him, but he was not to be laughed down, and soon had his hearers listening to him with rapt attention. When he ended he was greeted with ringing applause and at once became a political power.

# IN THE LAND OF THE CZAR

Russian life presents two clear-cut extremes. These are the peasants and the "nobility." Between these two classes exists a gulf as deep and wide as though the masses were still in the bondage of serfdom.

In their pleasures more than in any other phase of their life is this difference evident. As a matter of fact, the peasants have practically no pleasures except their eternal vodka drinking, a vice so common that it has ceased to be so regarded by the Russians.

On the other hand, the "nobility," which includes the middle and upper classes, seem to live in an almost continual whirl of pleasure.

All the year round, in winter and summer, the masses, those who were released from serfdom and those who have always been peasants, are toiling in their fields or are engaged in some other heavy labor suitable to the season, while their more fortunate fellow countrymen of the "nobility" help swell the numbers that crowd about the racetracks in summer or in winter or race in their sleighs over the snowy, frozen "prospects," with others as light-hearted as themselves.

It is a recognized fact that the aristocracy, like the "smart sets" of the occident, should spend their time from morning till night, and far into the night, in the pursuit of pleasure, but that the "nobility" should go to one extreme by imitating the examples of their superiors and the peasants to the other by having practically no pleasures at all is a state of affairs that finds no sympathy nor understanding in the west.

"Society" always follows the czar and on that account St. Petersburg is the center of gayety and pleasure, principally in summer, when the fairs so dear to the Russian's heart are in full swing.

Summer comes upon the city and the people almost without warning. They go to bed one night, thinking of the winter that has just passed with the breaking up of the ice and the melting of the snow, over which they had skinned so often in the jingling "troikas," buried in furs to protect themselves against the piercing cold—and in the morning they awake to find the trees fairly bursting into bloom, so that they can almost see the foliage and blossoms growing, and the heat is almost as great as it becomes in the middle of summer.



## Peasant Women Harvesting.

The end of May and the beginning of June is the period, like that of Norway, of the shining of the mid-night sun. For two or three hours only does the sun disappear below the horizon, and then its glow suffuses the sky, so that sunset and sunrise are merged into one.

Then it is that those who have nothing to do but to enjoy themselves take advantage of the long-established custom of going on excursions to the islands, to watch the sun slowly sink into the waters of the Neva, to meet and chat with their friends on various questions of the day, or to hear the latest bit of court news or gossip, and then to drive back in the hour of dawn to their houses, to invite sleep and refreshment before the pleasurable duties of the coming day.

Houses are thrown wide open all during this gay season, and everything in and around St. Petersburg teems with summer life and pleasure. Every one dines in the open air, spends his time on the water's edge, or joins a boating party that is going to hear the fashionable operetta given in one of the country theaters that are open at this time to afford another amusement to summer visitors. Everywhere is light-hearted happiness and merrymaking, but it is the same life and the same brilliant spectacle that follows the court of every other monarch in Europe.

There is another aspect of the pastimes of the upper class of Russians—the "nobility." The great majority of the landed proprietors pass the summer on their estates in some remote province of the empire, but they consider it their duty, on their way there, to stop at Nijni-Novgorod, to visit the annual fair, where they probably have some business to do in grain or cattle and desire to take in the pleasures of the great gathering at the same time.

The deplorable lack of enjoyment of the Russian peasant has a very strong pathetic side. The wealthy people of the country are generous in

this respect, but their generosity has come rather too late to be of much benefit to the objects of their kindness. On a public holiday the people living in or near the big towns have entirely free access to the parks, and are entertained with an outdoor theater, acrobatic performances, fireworks, free swings and rides and there is music everywhere. There are associations for the purpose of encouraging athletic games, and children are always drawn into them if possible; football and tennis, swings and giant's strides, playgrounds, everything imaginable to tempt them to take part in outdoor exercise, and if the young Russian does not grow healthy, vigorous and strong it is not from lack of opportunity to become so, but because habit is too strong with his parents.

From one end of Russia to the other there is one form of amusement that is common to the whole people. It is the circling dance known as the khorovod. It is common also to the Slavs of other countries, being, in fact, a Slav dance. During haytime and harvest, the busy season, the young peasants have little time for these dances on a large scale, but the children are given to dancing them of an evening, and they are sometimes given by a troupe in one of the summer gardens of St. Petersburg.

There are khorovod dances for every season of the year, but those in the spring and summer are the favorites. The young people, arrayed in their brightest costumes, form themselves in a circle and begin moving round and round, this way and that, singing songs appropriate to the season and the occasion. The melody of the songs is in harmony with the sentiments, being sung in a low, sad, wailing tone, and they are in keeping with the whole character of the Russian land, life and institutions. These circling choral dances are believed to be of very remote antiquity among the people of Russia. Near Tula, a large town near Moscow, is a rig of stones, which, so the legend runs, was once a khorovod of singing and dancing girls, who, while circling round, were suddenly transformed into stones.

Every Russian, from the poorest peasant to the czar, is a horse owner and lover. The Russians spend much money on their racetracks and some of them are very beautiful. The finest



## Peasant Women Harvesting.

racetrack in Russia is the trotting track at Moscow. The main grand stand on this course cost close to \$1,000,000, and is decorated with stone and bronze statues, some of which were set up at a cost of \$50,000. The finest are the works of Russian masters. America has no racetrack building, nor has England or France, that compares at all with the Moscow grand stand for splendor.

The racing season begins in Russia about April 15 and ends October 25. During the season there is only about two hours and a half of darkness during the night and the races begin at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and it is not uncommon for them to last until 10 p. m. Sometimes as many as ten or twelve races are run off in a day.

Horses stand the rugged climate of winter in Russia exceedingly well. They do not come into form as early as they do in this country, but one thing remarkable about them is their clean legs and sound feet. This is attributed to the intense cold hardening the muscles. Carefully handled, there is very little reason for a Russian bred and raised horse ever to break completely down.

## Smoking in Japan.

In order to help pay the expenses of a war which it saw was inevitable Japan recently established a regime, or government monopoly of the tobacco trade. Tobacco was introduced into Japan in the seventeenth century and at the present time there are large quantities of the weed grown and smoked there. As yet cigars have not reached the pinnacle of esteem they hold with more civilized nations, but Japan is making grand efforts to attain the standard of the West, and there are hopes for her. Just now the favorite smoke is a very small pipe, which is thrown away before it reaches the stage when it is able to walk alone. In that much the Jap is in advance of some of his more polished white brethren.

## RAT-RAISING AN INDUSTRY.

Enterprising Parisian Breeds Them For Their Skins.

Among the sights not the least interesting in the city of Paris is a regular rat pound, where the services of the rodents are utilized for removing the flesh from the carcasses of dead animals. A horse thrown in over night is quite stripped by morning, and it is the regular work of men in charge to remove the beautifully polished bones. Naturally, the rats thus pampered increase at amazing rates, and invade the neighboring slaughter-houses. So it becomes necessary at regular intervals to have a battle.

All around the heavy stone walls of the pound are bored thousands of holes half the length of a rat's body. Early in the morning while the rats are still at work on the skeletons enjoying their meal men with lanterns jump suddenly in, making a great noise and clatter. The frightened rats rush for the nearest refuge, and the walls are soon ornamented with a forest of whisking tails. The rat collector then seizes each rat by the tail and deposits it in a bag which he carries over his shoulder. The skins are largely used for making gloves.

## TORTOISES 500 YEARS OLD.

Only Centuries Count in the Lives of These Creatures.

That the large tortoise is capable of carrying a fair weight upon its back was recently demonstrated on the lawn of Mr. Carl Hagenback, when several of his children and grandchildren conceived the novel idea of racing upon a number of giant tortoises which had recently been brought home from the Seychelles Islands. The youngsters found the tortoises very queer steeds, and to entice them along dangled cabbages in front of them from the end of small sticks.

The tortoises in question are over 500 years of age, and weigh from 200 to 250 pounds apiece. They entirely live upon greenstuff and eat from twenty pounds to thirty pounds a day.

The Seychelles, from whence these animals were obtained, is the home of the giant tortoise, and less than fifty years ago they might have been found there in large numbers. Today, however, they are fairly scarce, particularly the large species, which are very valuable. The tortoise from this part of the world are, without question, the oldest living creatures upon the earth.

## With Scissors and Skill.



Cut out the figure of Mephistopheles and put the pieces together again so as to form the swan of Lohengrin.

## The World's Diamond Supply.

Amsterdam is the greatest of diamond marts. Nearly all the rough diamonds now taken there to be split, cut and polished come from South Africa. The stones from Brazil, Guiana, Australia and Borneo are relatively few. It is estimated that the South African mines have added \$400,000,000 worth of diamonds to the world's supply, and since less than 5 per cent of them are lost or destroyed in a hundred years it is evident that the gems are accumulating rapidly. About 9,000 persons are engaged in the diamond industry in Amsterdam, and contrary to what might naturally be supposed, it is not the cutters and polishers whose skill is most prized, but the splitters. At least it is they who receive the highest wages, amounting for the best workmen to \$20 a week.

## Governor Couldn't Spare Him.

It is related of Julius Laurens Clarke, who is still living in Newton, Mass., at the age of ninety-one years, that Gov. John A. Andrew emphatically refused early in the war for the union to permit him to go with the Worcester City Guard, of which he was then a member, saying that he could continue to do vastly more serviceable work as Massachusetts' state auditor than he could accomplish in the field.

## Rowing Cycle.



With this vehicle the rider may enjoy rowing without a boat.

## Prohibited Marriages.

The following written notice was recently served on the town clerk of Farmington, Me.: "To Louis Voter, town clerk, we hereby file the following caution with you not to issue a certificate to — and Mrs. — for this reason: That Mrs. —'s husband has just passed away and his mother feels very much grieved in having the marriage take place at present."